

NEWS RELEASE
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ISTOOK JOINS OIL AND GAS CAUCUS

Washington, D.C. - Oklahoma Congressman Ernest Istook, (R-5th District), is a charter member of the new caucus formed to concentrate on oil and gas issues. The congressional Caucus of Oil and Gas Advocates (COGA) will focus on legislation and regulations affecting the energy industry.

"Oil and gas producers, including the small, independent producers, deserve a chance to succeed," Istook said. "They're not getting that chance under the current climate of oppressive government."

Istook notes the health of the domestic oil and gas industry affects everyone.

"Not only do oil and gas producers of all sizes feel the pinch, but also the engineers, royalty owners, pipeline companies, transporters, and equipment companies. And all Oklahomans are affected by the health of this industry, which remains a cornerstone to the state's economy."

The caucus, chaired by Reps. Glenn Poshard, (D-IL), and Jim McCrery, (R-LA), is already preparing for the next session of Congress. Istook and many others in the caucus were part of an effort to persuade the Administration to help domestic oil and gas producers.

"The help offered producers by the White House has so far been rather weak. We have to lift the crushing weight of regulations and disincentives if we want the domestic petroleum industry to survive."